Massive Corals, Cerioid Growth Form

Simplified key to coral genera in the wildlife trade (continued)

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28. Massive corals with many circular to angular corallites, each separated by a wall	29
29. a. corallites share the same wall (cerioid growth form)	30
b. corallites have separate walls and are separated from each other by coenosteum (plocoid growth form)	31
30. **Cerioid** growth form and:	
a. septa form funnel-shaped calice, paliform lobe absent	*Favites*
b. septa drop abruptly into calice, paliform lobe present	*Goniastrea*
c. corallites delineated from each other by shallow groove in wall; septa do not extend across groove	*Leptastrea*
d. corallites vary in size; large prominent central corallite, corallites are progressively smaller to outer edge of colony	*Moseleya*
e. corallites pore-like, flush with coenosteum, <5 mm diameter **SEE PAGE 48**	*Goniopora*

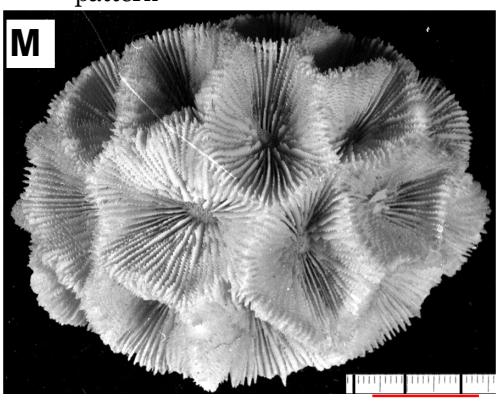
Favites, *Goniastrea*, *Favia*, and *Montastraea* extend tentacles only at night. These species have tubular polyps fringed by a mass of translucent tentacles that retract if disturbed. *Moseleya* rarely extends its tentacles.

Favites (1999: 8,200 pieces in trade, most live)
- "Mosaic Corals" have circular, oblong or polygonal corallites that differ in size; adjacent corallites share same wall
- septa have large teeth; paliform lobes usually not well developed

Goniastrea (1999: 1,892 pieces traded, most live)
- "Honeycomb Corals" have polygonal corallites, smaller and more tightly packed than *Favites*; corallites cerioid, submeandroid; one species is meandroid
- colonies have a regular, neat appearance and a regular arrangement of septa; septa have small teeth; colonies with a well-developed columella

Cerioid colonies of *Goniastrea* are distinguished from *Favites* by having distinct paliform lobes surrounding the mouth that extend above the oral disc.

Moseleya latistellata (1999: not reported in trade)
- colonies are small (generally < 50 cm diameter), sub-massive to encrusting
- polyps are up to 35 mm diameter, with a large central polyp and smaller, angular daughter polyps (M-N)
- new polyps are budded at the edge of the colony, giving the species a distinctive pattern



M) corallites cerioid
N) colony has large central corallite
M) daughter corallites arranged concentrically, becoming smaller toward colony margin
M) may have 1-2 mouths per corallite
N) septa with fine teeth; tentacles infrequently extended at night

Oulophyllia bennettae
is similar to *Favites*, but:
- corallites large and angular
- septa are widely spaced
- septa have rounded teeth
- septa of adjacent corallites are aligned

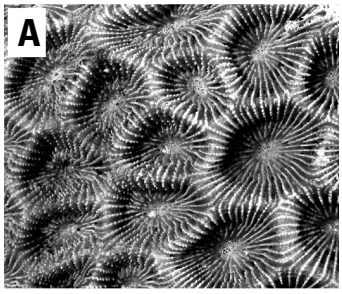
Massive Corals: Cerioid Growth Form

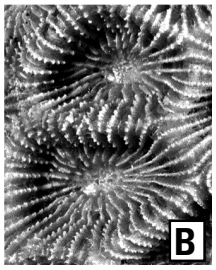
Family Faviidae: all representatives extend tentacles at night

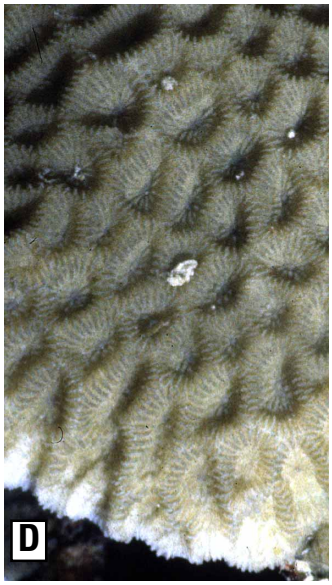
Cerioid colonies: corallites have shared walls

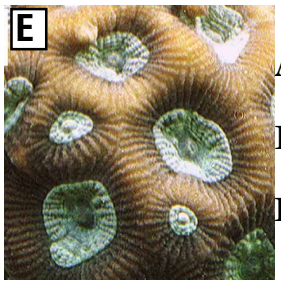
Favites

- common name: Pineapple Coral; Moon Coral (9 species)
- colonies massive, flat or dome-shaped





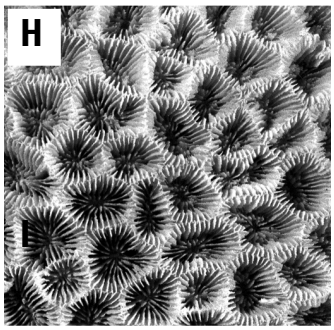


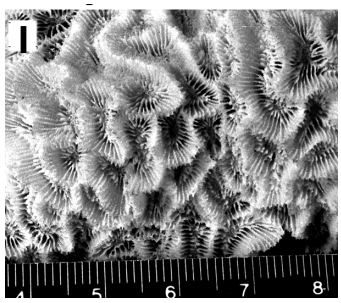


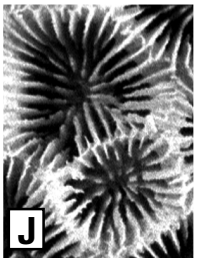
A-E) corallites round to angular
E) septa alternate in size
B) septa have large teeth

Goniastrea

- common name: Honeycomb Coral (8 species)
- colonies massive, spherical or elongate; polyps cerioid; colonies also meandroid







G-L) corallites angular
H,I) corallites cerioid to sub-meandroid
H) regular pattern of septa
J) septa with fine teeth
L) well-developed paliform lobe